



**George Brown**  
**Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland)**  
**Royal Navy**  
**Service No. D/JX174387**  
**World War II**

**Born:** 16 Dec 1919

**Died:** 10 July 1978 (Age 58)

**Place of Birth:** Shearstown, Bay Roberts,  
Newfoundland

**Parents:** George and Margaret “Maggie” (Russell)  
Brown

According to the 1921 Newfoundland general census, George is listed as being one (1) year old. His dad, George sr. was twenty-seven (27) and mother “Maggie” twenty-six (26). He has three (3) siblings, William 7, Edward 3, and Mary 3. They are living in Shearstown, Newfoundland. The community of Shearstown is now officially part of the town of Bay Roberts.

The Brown family is not found in the next Newfoundland census of 1935. It seems that sometime between 1921 and 1930, they moved to New Brunswick. It was here in September of 1930, that George’s mother passed away. She is buried in the Salvation Army Cemetery at (Cat Hills) Bay Roberts.

At nineteen (19), George enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve (Newfoundland) and subsequently became part of the Royal Navy of Great Britain. In fact, George was one of the two hundred (200) men who were shipped overseas on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1939 as part of the First (1<sup>st</sup>) Naval Contingent to be sent. They arrived at Liverpool, England by way of Halifax, Nova Scotia on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1939. The transporting vessel was the RMS (Royal Mail Ship) Newfoundland.



**RMS Newfoundland**

- RMS Newfoundland (1925–40) Royal Mail Ship
- HMHS *Newfoundland* (?–1943) His Majesty’s Hospital Ship
- Sunk in 1943 in German air attack off southern Italy.

George was stationed at Devonport, his home designated Port for his time in service.

George passed away on 10 Jul 1978 and is buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, British Columbia. He is listed as being single at his time of death.

## Combined Operations Patch WW II



Below are several newspaper clippings that mention George:

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
02 December 1939*

### Local Boys For Royal Navy

The following young men from Bay Roberts and Shearstown have offered their services in the Royal Navy and form part of the First Newfoundland Overseas Naval Contingent: Edward Trenchard, Edward L. Snow, George Brown, Robert J. Mercer, Arch Parsons, Bay Roberts; Graham Mercer, Peter P. Franey, Max Mercer and Heber Mercer, Shearstown.

We wish each of these young men the best of luck as they go to serve their King and Country.

*From The Daily News  
13 March 1940*

### From Bay Roberts



**GEORGE BROWN**  
1st Naval Contingent

On Armistice Day, 1939, shortly after concluding the season's work as cook on a coasting schooner, George Brown enlisted in the Royal Navy. The third recruit from Bay Roberts, he went overseas in the First Newfoundland Naval Contingent.

George was born December 16th, 1919. Two of his uncles served in the Great War, 1914-18. Now serving with the Royal Navy "Somewhere in England," George writes to his relatives in an optimistic vein. In one letter he wrote: "Tell my buddies they should be dressed in a suit like this."

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
13 July 1940*

## Bay Roberts Boy One Of Crew Of Lost "Scotstoun"

George Brown, of Bay Roberts, who is now serving overseas in the Royal Navy, was one of 23 Newfoundlanders who were on board the British ship "Scotstoun", when that ship was torpedoed by a German submarine on June 13th. In a letter to his grandmother, George says that after their ship went down they were in the water four hours. They were picked up by a lifeboat. A British aeroplane passed over them and told them to cheer up, that a rescue ship was coming to their aid. One Newfoundlander lost his life. George writes from Scotland and when he wrote was on leave for a few days.

George Brown is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Russell, Bay Roberts West, and went overseas with the first naval contingent.

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
19 October 1940*

## George Brown R.N. Here On Short Visit

George Brown, one of the Bay Roberts boys who left for overseas with the first naval draft, and who was on the S.S. Scotstoun when that ship was torpedoed some months ago, and he was in the water for about five hours, was here on leave on Wednesday and Thursday and visited his relatives and friends. His many friends here were glad to see him home again.

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
04 November 1944*

A Reception will be held in the Public Building on Thursday night, Nov. 9 in honor of F/O Douglas Hall, R.A.F., and A/B George Brown, R.N. Combined Operations. The ladies are asked to kindly prepare for same in the usual way.

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
11 November 1944*

Seaman George Brown, of Royal Naval Combined Operations arrived home last week to spend a short furlough with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Russell, Bay Roberts West. George went overseas in the 1st naval draft and except for a few hours spent here two years ago, this has been his first leave.

*From The Bay  
Roberts Guardian  
22 December 1945*

The following servicemen recently returned home and have been discharged: L.A.C. Roy Yetman, R.A.F., from India; Lt.-Cdr. Clifford Russell, Royal Navy; A B George Brown, Royal Navy.

*From The Bay Roberts  
Guardian  
12 January 1946*

**W. P. A. NOTICE**

A Reception will be held in the Public Building on Wednesday, Jan. 16 in honor of:

Douglas Spurrell, R.N.; Wm. Mercer, R.N.; Clifford Russell, R.N., and bride; Douglas Hall, R.A.F.; Clement Elms, R.A.F.; Kevin Joy, R.A.F.; Allan Snow, R.N.; Eb Kelly, R.N., and bride; Chesley Sparkes, R.A.F.; Harry Parsons, R.A.F., and bride; Roy Yetman, R.A.F.; Robert Mercer, R.N.; George Brown, R.N.; James Mercer, R.N., and any other returned soldier, sailor or airman, who may have returned home unknown to this committee. A very hearty invitation is extended to them also and their brides, to be present.

All members please help in their usual generous way.